

1 **New Areas** are usually added to the National Park System by an act of Congress.

2 However, before **Congress** decides about creating a new park, it needs information about the quality of the resource and whether it meets criteria established by law for inclusion in the National Park System.

3 A **Special Resource Study** is one way the National Park Service provides this information to Congress.

4 During a Special Resource Study, the National Park Service will examine 4 aspects of the resource:

- **National Significance**
- **Suitability**
- **Feasibility**
- **Management Options**



Regardless of all other factors, a new national park must meet criteria for **national significance, suitability, and feasibility.**

National Significance

When determining the level of national significance for a proposed new area, the the National Park Service is required by law to use the standards as put forth in 36 CFR Part 65, Criteria for National Historic Landmarks.

A proposed area will be considered nationally significant if it meets the following criteria:

1 It possesses exceptional value or quality illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our Nation's heritage

2 It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource

and

- Is associated with events that made a significant contribution to U.S. history; or
- Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an exceptionally valuable architectural type or style; or
- Is associated with the lives of persons nationally significant in U.S. history; or
- Is an integral component of a collection of entities of exceptional historic or artistic significance; or
- Has the potential to yield information of major scientific importance; or
- Represents some great idea or ideal of the American people

